

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 3. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-4, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-4. In Figs. 1 and 3, reference numeral 40 has been added.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 16-18, 20-24 and 27-36 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 15-18, 20, 22 and 36 are amended, and claim 19 is canceled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to the specification as allegedly failing to provide support for certain claimed features. Likewise, claims 1-24, 27 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

By this Amendment, the specification is amended to specifically discuss a feature recited in the claims. Likewise, Figs. 1 and 3 are corrected to include a reference numeral pointing to the feature discussed in the amended language of the specification. Specifically, the specification and drawings are amended to identify a recess which is formed on the top of a door of a refrigerator. Because this feature was clearly illustrated in the originally filed drawings, it is respectfully submitted that the correction to the specification and the addition of reference number 40 to Figs. 1 and 3 does not add any new matter to the application. Accordingly, entry of the specification change and the corrected drawings is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, independent claim 15 is amended to recite a grasping recess formed on the top of a door for a refrigerator. This feature corresponds to the language in the amended paragraph of the specification and to the reference numeral added to Figs. 1 and 3. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the specification and drawings of the application provide support for this recited feature. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under §112, first paragraph, is

respectfully requested.

The Office Action also objected to claims 1-24, 27, and 35 because of an informality appearing in independent claim 15. By this Amendment, the informality has been corrected. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to those claims is also respectfully requested.

II. Claims 15-20, 22-24, 28-38, 33 and 35 Are Allowable over Bukulmez

The Office Action rejects claims 15-20, 22-24, 28-31, 33 and 35 under 35 USC §102(e) over PCT Publication No. 02/065036 to Bukulmez et al. ("Bukulmez"). The Office Action also rejects claims 21 and 32 under 35 USC §103(a) over Bukulmez. As noted above, claim 19 has been canceled. With respect to the remaining claims, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

A. Claims 15-18, 20-24 and 35

Claim 15 is directed to a door for a refrigerating appliance. Claim 15 recites an outer wall and an inner wall, the outer wall and inner wall interconnected along their longitudinal and transverse edges to form a space therebetween having a depth for the door. Claim 15 further recites an upper end element which is attached to an upper transverse edge of the door, the upper end element including a plate extending horizontally between the inner and outer walls across the depth of the door. Claim 15 further recites that the upper end element includes an outer wall piece that extends upward from a front edge of the plate, wherein a grasping recess is formed between a rear side of the outer wall piece and an upper surface of the plate. Claim 15 also recites that a viewing window is formed in the outer wall piece, the viewing window allowing a user visual access to a space behind the viewing window.

The Bukulmez reference discloses a refrigerator having a door. The door of the refrigerator includes an upper end element which is attached to the upper

edge of the door. However, the upper end element does not include an outer wall piece that extends upward from the front edge of a horizontally extending plate. Nor does the Bukulmez refrigerator door include a grasping recess formed between a rear side of the outer wall piece and an upper surface of the plate. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is allowable over Bukulmez. Claims 16-18, 20-24, and 35 depend from claim 15 and are allowable for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features which they recite.

B. Claims 28-34

Independent claim 28 is directed to a refrigerator appliance. Claim 28 recites that the appliance includes a body and a door abutting the body in a closed position, the door having an upper transverse edge. Claim 28 recites a display element mounted at an upper front edge of the body, and a viewing window forming the upper transverse edge of the door. Claim 28 recites that the viewing window is oriented such that the display element is visible when the door is closed.

The Bukulmez reference fails to disclose or suggest a refrigerator where a display element is mounted at an upper front edge of the body of the refrigerating appliance. Instead, the Bukulmez reference discloses that the display element is mounted on a top of the body. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 28 is allowable over Bukulmez. Claims 29-33 depend from claim 28 and are allowable for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features which they recite.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15-18, 20-24, 28-33 and 35 is respectfully requested.

III. Claims 27 and 34 Are Allowable Over Bukulmez and Licentia

The Office Action rejects claims 27 and 34 under 35 USC §103(a) over Bukulmez in view of German Patent Application No. 9218613 to Licentia. The

rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 27 depends from claim 15, and claim 34 depends from claim 28. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 27 and 34 are allowable over Bukulmez for all the reasons discussed above in connection with claims 15 and 28. Licentia fails to cure those deficiencies of Bukulmez. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 27 and 34 are allowable over Bukulmez and Licentia. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim 36 is Allowable Over Bukulmez and Onaka

The Office Action rejects claim 36 under 35 USC §103(a) over Bukulmez in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,819 to Onaka et al. ("Onaka"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,031,144 to Carter et al. ("Carter"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 36 has been amended to recite a refrigerator appliance which includes a body and a door. Claim 36 recites that the door includes a grasping aperture formed in a top edge of the door, the grasping aperture extending across almost the entire width of the door. Claim 36 further recites that the upper transverse edge of the door is formed with a viewing window extending over the depth of the door. Claim 36 recites that the door covers the body of the refrigerating appliance to its upper edge and that a control panel mounted on the upper front edge of the front side of the body of the refrigerating appliance is visible through the viewing window.

As discussed above, Bukulmez fails to disclose or suggest a refrigerator having a door with the grasping aperture recited in claim 36. The Onaka and Carter references fail to cure this deficiency of Bukulmez. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 36 is allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 36 is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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